WARZONE

WARZINE tm

FREE!

THE WARZONE COLLECTIVE
P.O. BOX 148
BELFAST BT1.

OCTOBER 1988 NO.6

WE WILL BE FREE

the picket at Chelsea Girl

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - BELFAST

OCT. 15th. Maddens Bar.
Benefit night for the Chelsea Girl strikers.

Oct. 15th/16th. Everywhere. Anti-McDonalds' day.

Oct. 22nd. Art College.
Benefit gig for hunt sab fines. TO BE CONFIRMED.

Nov. 26th. Art College.
Concrete Sox, and Doom
Starts 2pm, £2 in

Dec. 17th. Art College.
Instigators
Starts 2pm, £2 in.
TO BE CONFIRMED.

Chelsea Girl is a chain store owned by the Lewis Group of companies.

It's favourite boast is that in 35 years and with a total of 150 stores to it's name it has never had a strike by it's employees. Could this have anything to do with the fact that employees of this company are not allowed to join a union under the threat of instant dismissal I wonder?

After years of being treated as halfwits and general dogsbodies by their employers, low pay (Top Shop workers receive about £200 per month more for the same work) and demands for overtime without any extra pay or reasonable notice. Employees at the Belfast branch decided that they had had enough. Last Christmas they decided to secretly join the U.S.D.A.W. even though they knew that should the management found that out they would be sacked.

Everything finally came to a head a few weeks ago when the company 'asked' it's employees to do overtime on Tuesdays, during the run up to Christmas - without pay.

The workers refused the 'offer'and said that they would strike rather than work for nothing. 34 of the branches employees - all women - were sacked there and then.

Since the sacking the women have mounted a successful picket outside the Belfast store- very few shoppers cross the picket line. However this hasn't prevented the management from bringing in scab labour from other branches or more recently refilling the sacked workers jobs with newly recruited workers. I wonder how long it will take for the new recruits to realise how bad things are at Chelsea Girl?

Originally the strikers produced a leaflet which they handed out to passers-by while standing on the picket. However this proved ineffectual as people were just not reading it, so it was decided to organize a petition instead with a short explanation at the top explaining the reasons for the picket.

As there have been no letter of dismissal issued by the company the saked workers cannot claim social security.They have been to a tribunal to try and get interim strike pay until the results of the unfair dismissal tribual are known, but they have been turned down.

They have received some moral support and some help with publicity for their cause from N.I.P.S.A. ,N.U.P.E.,the students union,Womens Aid, The warzone collective, various individuals and their own union, this combined with the efforts of people passing the picket giving them words of encouragement has all made a contribution to keeping the strike solid and keeping up morale.

We should all be giving them as much support and encouragement as possible, they have made a stand and put their livelihoods on the line. If they have the courage and the conviction to stand up for their rights and more broadly the working class in general then we should be standing with them in solidarity.

A benefit night has been arranged for the Chelsea Girl strikers. Organised by the Women's Centre, it will be held on Sat. 15th Oct., in Madden's Bar, in Smithfield, Belfast.

SCENE REPORT FROM KILKEEL PETTY SESSIONS!

Yesterday, I sat through an utter farce which puports to be the system of "justice" which governs us all. One of my friends, Tim, was fined £50 for "behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace".

This offence arose out of a hunt sab. on Jan. 2nd this year. There are three points I'd like to make out of this.

(1) JUSTICE? The magistrate who presided over the case was a man called Hardy. This man goes on a grouse shooting holiday for two weeks in August every year. He also "hangs out" with the East Down Foxhounds, the hunt where the arrest took place. On my understanding of the law, theoretically he should have adjourned the case, on the grounds that he wasn't an impartial judge. During the 40 minutes hearing, this "impartial" magistrate frequently assisted the huntsman and prosecuting police officer in ridiculing and attacking the defence lawyer, Tim, and the defence witness. I didn't expect a fair trial, but the partiality with which it was conducted was quite stunning.

(2) GUILTY? As I was on the sab where Tim was arrested, I can quite categorically state that he was in no way involved in any of the trouble that happened that day. On the day, a van belonging to the hunt was stoned as it drove through the sabs at high speed. The stoning was due to frustration after we were charged by four people on horseback. In court the huntsman lied that he had clearly seen Tim throw a stone at his horse. He lied that he and three others had not charged our group. He invented the notion that Tim was our "ringleader", rousing us to commit gross acts of violence against the innocent huntspeople passing by (including his 13 year old daughter, as he must have told the court at least half a dozen times). Tim was eventually done because he admitted being part of a group of individuals, some of whom had thrown stones at a van. Thus the blame for any actions by an individual can now be spread over an entire group.

(3) WHERE WERE YOU? Tim is a quiet sorta guy, who happens to care a lot about animals' rights. He doesn't strut around in a leather jacket with a circle "A" on his back; he doesn't get his hair cut into wild styles to show what a rebel he is; he doesn't spend all his time sat on his arse slabbering about Class War and rich bastards; he doesn't sneer at people in the street for being conformists dicks, and he doesn't pride himself in being part of a movement which he contributes nothing to. He merely gives up nearly every Saturday during the hunt season, gets up before 8 a.m., travels 40 miles to Belfast, and then goes on a hunt sab with his friends. If he can make this sacrifice in order to prevent foxes, hares being slaughtered by rich huntsmen and women, why could some of the big mouthed, slabbery "anarchist" punks that we see around not manage to do the same?

One final note - a fair amount of evidence against Tim came from a statement that he naively gave to the police. Needless to say, it didn't reach the court intact. So now you know - "Never make a statement" ! (And if you want any more advice on how to live your life, listen to those sound blokes F.U.A.L !!)

SQUATTING UPDATE

Firstly,in the last Warzine we told you about one of the squatters being charged with 'dishonestly using electricity' for which there is a large fine if found 'guilty'.Fortunately,when the person appeared in court all the charges against him were dropped,which was the only sensible thing that could happen as it was such a ridiculous charge anyway. Another new house is being opened up(it already has electric turned on,so no worries there)so that's two squats we know of in S.Belfast- I'm sure there's many more.

If you are interested in more detailed information- we obviously need to be vague about specific events and place names in order to protect people-please feel free to write to the P.O.Box and we'll see if we can help out.Also,if you're interested in maybe squatting yourself and need some help,write as well.

LAWFUL KILLING?

Well at last the Gibraltar inquest has come to an end and came up with the verdict we've all been waiting for. The Jury totally ignored the evidence of the impartial civilians in favour of the biased accounts of the police and the SAS men who carried out the killings. Of course the media played their part to their usual standard condemning the witnesses from the word go. The Sun had an 'exclusive' on Karmen Proweta two days after the programme death on the rock with the headline 'The Tart'. When she came to give her evidence to the inquest ITN sharply observed that she was wearing a revealing dress. And of course don't forget that Stephen Bullock the Barrister was warned by the police for talking to other witnesses before giving his evidence. These two witnesses accounts of how Danny Mc Cann was shot were strikingly similar, Both witnesses saw Him stagger backwards with his hands in the air while the SAS man continued to fire at point blank range at him. Mairead Farrell was killed because she made a 'sudden movement', for fuck sake who wouldn't make a sudden movement when they heard gunfire a few feet behind them. The SAS man who started the shooting also stated that the expression on Mc Canns face changed when he made eye to eye contact with him, this may have had something to do with the fact that the soldier had his gun half way out ! But minimum force was used. Sean Savage was shot sixteen times, four of these directly into the brain. One of the SAS men who shot Savage said that he wasn't frantic, the same man shot nine bullets into Savage before he hit the ground. Throughout the whole inquest the SAS kept referring to the imaginary buttons that they prevented the three from pressing, this fairytale was their only justification for taking three lives in such a demented manner so take away the buttons and the bomb that happened not to be in the car in Gibraltar and you take away the only Justification.

Most people in Northern Ireland Know that the SAS are trained assassins and they don't go out to arrest people, they are trained to kill and not question. The issue here isn't 'were the killings lawful', its more an issue of 'do they think we're a bunch of fucking imbeciles' ?????!!!!!

GIGS IN BELFAST REPORT

There seemed to be quite a lot of information concerning gigs to be included in this month's Warzine, so we decided to dedicate a whole page to the subject (aren't we nice).

Although some feel that Warzine should not be dwelling on the topic of gigs, and should be

concentrating on other things "more political", it has to be said that most Warzines are read by gig goers, and gigs are one of the most regular, up to date things that are happening at the moment.

News...

I'll start by giving a run down on the money lifted at the last lot of gigs.

The Pennyfarthing disaster on Thurs. 8th Sept. (sorry everyone, we really had no idea that the bouncer would be such a bastard), which ended up round at the centre lifted £253.00, £31 went to hire of equipment, posters etc., the rest, £220.00 went between Electro Hippies and Carcass. The gig held on the Saturday, also at the centre, raised £84, which just about made up the money it had taken to bring the bands over.

The gig scheduled for Fri. 16th (article elsewhere) went ahead anyway, and we lifted £300.00. £50 to hire p.a, £60 to pay door, £70 went to repay the money lost organising the Fleskwater festival in August. We had been asked to do benefits for loads of different groups, so the £120 remaining went four ways - to Counter Information, the Anarchist library, U.K. Resist newsheet, and Belfast Women's Aid.

Letter from Concrete Sox.

Dear Warzone,

This is Andy from Concrete Sox (speaking on behalf of Doom also) with an explanation and apology concerning the gigs which we were meant to play on Sept. 16th in Belfast, Sept. 17th in Dublin, and Sept. 18th in Belfast.

We were prepared and ready to travel to Ireland but were informed the night before we were to set off that the Saturday and Sunday gigs had been cancelled, one of these had been rescheduled for the Monday following.

There is no way we could have played the Monday gig because the singer Sean is self-employed and had to work on the Tuesday (he's a driver and he drives for other self-employed people, who rely on him for their jobs). Also, Rich, the guitarist had to sign on on the Tuesday morning , so I hope you appreciate why we couldn't play the Monday gig. (which we weren't informed about by the organisers, we found out from a mate of Dooms who phoned him on the Wednesday before).

The expenses for the trip were around £400 and we felt this was too much to ask for one gig.

Unfortunately, it seems none of the organisers had our phone numbers and so couldn't arrange something earlier, later I found out that someone form Ireland phoned me and left a message ? I tried to phone back the night before and was unable to get through, so lack of communication from the organisers didn't help matters. We are hoping to arrange some gigs for the end of November.

Once again, we apologise to anyone who turned up, especially those who travelled to see us.

Cheers, Andy, C - Sox.

In reply...

We would just like to explain one or two points to all gig attenders here.

Yes, lack of communication was a problem during the organising of the gigs, but there were several reasons for it..

1. We DID NOT have any of Concrete Sox or Doom's phone numbers at all until Thursday afternoon, so didn't (couldn't) phone and leave a message. We did trying phoning the record label and leaving a message there, but to no avail as they say (there was just an answering machine)

2. Andy only phoned the cafe during the evening, and the cafe is only open during the day.

3. The gig organisers amongst the Warzone collective were under the impression that the bands were able to come for a week, and so would be able to play at the Monday night gig.

There is no point in blaming anyone for these points, they just happened, but we will strive to make sure that they don't happen again. (one last point, whoever Doom spoke to had absolutely nothing to do with the gigs as far as we know).

Anyway, we'll try again, sorry to everyone who was disappointed at not seeing them,

Warzone folk.

THE FUTURE OF GIGS IN THE ART COLLEGE.....

NON - ALCOHOLIC GIGS ??????????

Since we got the Art college for gigs, thing have been getting better in the way of bands coming across to play. Of course, there have been a few hiccups but that's only to be expected. However, we have come up against our first major problem. As the Art college's Conor Hall is licenced there has to be age restriction and as the gigs have become more frequent we've had increasing hassle from the Art college about under age people trying to get in. We suggested having occasional Saturday afternoon gigs for the younger people to which the Art college were very agreeable to.

Of course, there's still the problem of people bringing in carry outs into a place where there are under 18's, the problem is that the R.U.C take a very dim view of such behaviour and the people from the Art college don't want a load of unneccessary hassle (who does?). to some people, it may seem that the police can't do anything about carryouts in the place, they couldn't when the Anarchy centre was going, not by law anyhow, but they managed to kick up enough shit about the place to scare the lease holders into not letting us have the place anymore, in other words, they can do whatever they want. We can get the place on the condition that we do the door and we ensure that no carryouts are brought into the place. We've been told that if carryouts are brought in, we won't get the place again.

For the people who can't come to gigs without drinking we have to ask PLEASE don't be drinking outside the place cos this will also jeopardise our chances of getting the place again.

All it really comes down to is basic respect for people who otherwise are pushed aside by age restrictions .
HELP US MAKE IT WORK.

This newsheet has been put together by some individuals from Warzine. Any opinions expressed in it are those of the individuals concerned and not neccessarily of everynoe in the collective.

We are constantly looking for information of happenings around Ireland. Although we are now into are sixth issue, the response has still been quite poor, so come on, write and tell us what's happening in your area, and if there is nothing going on, well, make something happen!

Also, we are hoping to increase the amount we get printed with every issue, and as you know, the sheet is free, so any donations are gratefully received. Also, if you can help distribute any for us ANYWHERE, please get in touch.

All mail is to be sent to, WARZONE, P.O. BOX 148, BELFAST, BT1, NORTHERN IRELAND.

Well, October 16th is official anti- Mcdonalds day, but the whole weekend will be used for peoples protests against this multi-National. But what's that, you cry? We don't have a McDonalds in Northern Ireland? Well, that may be so, but there's plenty of other targets we can aim our protests at... Wimpy, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Nibblers are all invovled in the same exploitation as McDonalds.
Let them know that we really do care about our earth, boycott, leaflet, demonstrate, attack!

We are trying to compile a list of all the alternative and independent distribution services in the U.K.

We feel that such a list will be invaluable to folk wanting stuff distributed, as the list will be very full and comprehensive, also the list will be a bit of promotion to decent distribution services!

When we have compiled the list, we will print and distribute it ourselves.

We can create an alternative to the big business distributers (and even the ones who SAY they're alternative but are just in it for the money, or who just sell their stuff through a larger distributor). Please send your address and a sample of what you have for sale (so we know whether you do tapes/ records/ mags etc), hope to hear from you soon !

GLASGOW'S PUNK PICNIC REPORT

On Saturday August 27th a picnic was organized in Kelvingrove park. The flyposters said to bring food, drink,tapes and taperecorders. Most people just brought drink although there where one or two taperecorders running about!

Between about 60-80 people turned up and the majority were there to enjoy themselves although one or two people decided to act the pratt.

Most of the folk there were from Glasgow but there were a few from Aberdeen and Edinburgh.

It was quite a nice day weatherwise, though it rained a bit.That didn't make much of a difference as we were standing under the trees.

There were a few people handing out fanzines and anarchist booklets and there was some discussion about Scottish bands coming over here and Irish bands going over there. However as we were all a bit the worse for the drink we will have to wait and see the results of a bit of letter writing for further developements.

After the picnic about thirty people decided to go to the pub.This turned out to be a minor disaster.Everyone managed to get served o.k. but then the cops turned up (they'd been busy earlier on at the Celtic/Rangers match),and told us that we would have to leave.They then started to take pints off of people. Anyway we all left the bar quietly.No-one was apt to make a fuss as Scottish cops are notorious for handing out hidings. Anyway our friendly protectors in blue then proceeded to escort us off their 'patch'. I'm sure though that they only had our best interests at heart!!

To sum it all up it was a good day out and for most people it made a refreshing change from a boring Saturday afternoon, spent, wandering, aimlessly around the city centre. It was great to see people with a common interest getting together and making their own entertainment - instead of waiting about for some rip off capitalist promotion company to lay it all on for them. We don't need them.They need us and we can do it for ourselves. Let's hope that we will see more events of this nature in the not too distant future.

AND NOW....

The piece you've all been waiting for, the Centre news, yeah!! Bet you're all thinking, oh no, not the same old shit that nothing has been done again, and the same things still need doing, wwwweeellll.... you'd be right!!!
Seriously though, when you read this, believe it or believe it not, the art workshop should be in the correct room in the building, and should be getting underway. So by the next Warzine, we should be well into the flow of things, printing t-shirts etc. We'll keep you up to date on this, but don't send any orders in yet!

We're also planning to decorate the cafe whenever we have a free weekend, sometime during October, so we really need a few willing volunteers for that job, any offers?

The library is progressing pretty well, we've got about 30 books so far, not many but 30 more than when we started ! We're still looking for any donations there as well.

Anyhow, that's about all for this month...

Letter....

I am going to lead an attack on myself and a lot of other so called "anarcho-punks". You may not like it, but I've got to write it. How many of you go to the off licence and buy 20 cigarettes and 6 beers and go meet your mates and talk about Anarchism and how you'll change the world ? For a start, think about the tax on beer and cigarettes and where it goes to. It'a a bit hypocritical talking about overthrowing the government while you are helping to support them with your money. Just think of how much money you have given to the government during your life and then tell me that you have never supported them.

Secondly, you may not care about the effects of smoking but remember it's not only you who could get ill, others are affected too through passive smoking. If you are acaring person START CARING and think of other people.

That's all I'm going to say on the subject. I hope I've offended you enough so that you might take another look at yourself and wise up. Remember there are alternatives, BREW YOUR OWN.

Egor.